



ENDER28,001APC

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

3651
#9
Election
5603

Applicant : Kuznetsov et al.

Group A Unit 3651

Appl. No. : 10/009,851

Filed : November 6, 2001

For : METHOD FOR TRANSFERRING
WAFERS AND RING

Examiner : Joseph A. Dillor Jr.

I hereby certify that this correspondence and all marked attachments are being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to: United States Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 2327, Arlington, VA 22202, on

April 22, 2003

(Date)

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RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Box Non-Fee Amendment
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GROUP 3600

Dear Sir:

In an action mailed April 3, 2003, the Examiner required restriction of prosecution to one of the following groups of claims:

Group I Claims 22-33, drawn to a method of conveying;

Group II Claims 34-46, drawn to a thermal treatment installation/ring; and

Group III Claim 47, drawn to a method of conveying.

In response to this restriction requirement, Applicants elect to proceed, without traverse, with prosecution on the merits of Group II (Claims 34-46), drawn to a thermal treatment installation/ring.

APR 28 2003

GROUP 3600

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: November 6, 2001

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that the application is in condition for examination on the merits, and respectfully requests the same.

Respectfully submitted,

KNOBBE, MARTENS, OLSON & BEAR, LLP

Dated: April 22, 2003

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